

## Collection of facts: attacks on mosques in 2014

### 1. Preliminary note

In the last 30 years in the Federal Republic of Germany there have been a dozen bomb threats<sup>1</sup>, and over a hundred attacks with stones, firebombs and firearms against mosques. However, there are no official data collected on these crimes. Thus there is a lack of basic statistical information. This lack of available data makes it difficult to represent the crime situation on this phenomenon. The following chronological list of the mosque attacks in 2014 therefore is largely based on newspaper reports and interviews with journalists and stakeholders.

Other sources of information are reports prepared by Islamic religious communities and Turkish consulates, as well as a study made by Gerhard Piper, a researcher at the Berlin Information Centre for Transatlantic Security (Berliner Informationszentrum für Transatlantische Sicherheit). In this study, Piper lists 122 attacks on 92 mosques, in 82 cities and municipalities. Added to these, there was also 50 profanations executed with right-wing vandalism using graffiti, faeces or pig blood vandalism<sup>2</sup>. The Federal Government confirmed, in reply to a written question raised by the Left Party, that there were at least 219 politically motivated crimes against mosques between 2001 – 2011.<sup>3</sup>

From a response given by the Federal Government to an inquiry from the Left Party in the State Parliament it's clear, moreover, that between 2001 and 2011 a number of 22 attacks were counted per year, on average.<sup>4</sup> In 2012 and in 2013, the number rose to 35, resp. 36 a year. From early 2012 until March 2014, a total number of 78 attacks were registered.<sup>5</sup> From January to August, there have been, according to the Federal Ministry of the Interior, 12 politically motivated attacks on mosques in Germany. The spectrum of actions range from vandalism with swastika graffiti, to death threats and incendiary actions.<sup>6</sup> However, it is estimated that the grey number of unreported or not publicly disclosed offences is much higher.

#### 1.1 Detecting anti-Muslim crimes

Anti-Muslim crimes and violent actions are assigned, since the introduction of the Criminal Investigation Registration Service in 2001, without further identification, to the generic term of "hate crime". A separate sub-theme of "anti-Muslim", "Islamophobic" or other similar type is not made. The result is that anti-Muslim crimes are not specifically reported in the statistics.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In right-wing populist parties there is the idea that *"the night will come when the burning mosques will reach heaven"*, which is widespread. Quoted from a hate mail to the mosque community in Wertheim, in: Gabriel, Jan, Heimvorteil-Moscheebau in Wertheim (Advantages of a home-style mosque in Wertheim), 2008 ([www.heimvorteil-film.de](http://www.heimvorteil-film.de)), in: Fels, Patrick/ Killguss, Hans- Peter/ Puls, Hendrik [Hrsg.], Moscheebaukonflikte und ihre Instrumentalisierung durch die extreme Rechte (Mosque construction and its instrumenting by the right wing), NS- Documentation and Information Center, and Training Center against Right wing extremism (ibs), P. 32.

<sup>2</sup> [www.heise.de/tp/artikel/35/35449/1.html](http://www.heise.de/tp/artikel/35/35449/1.html) (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>3</sup> <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/17/095/1709523.pdf> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>4</sup> [http://dokumente.linksfraktion.net/drucksachen/26586\\_1709350.pdf](http://dokumente.linksfraktion.net/drucksachen/26586_1709350.pdf) (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.noz.de/deutschland-welt/politik/artikel/494135/immer-mehr-uebergriffe-auf-moscheen> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/justiz/brand-in-berliner-moschee-staatsanwaltschaft-leitet-ermittlungen-ein-a-988927.html> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>7</sup> Denkowski, Charles A., Islamfeindlichkeit – ein relevanter Phänomenbereich für Polizei, Verfassungsschutz und kriminologische Forschung? (Islamophobia - a relevant phenomenon area for police, protection of the constitution, and criminological research), the Police, 103, 2, P. 29-34, 2012.

The situation with, *inter alia*, anti-Semitic crimes, is completely different. The departments of State Security and Protection of the Constitution (Die Dienststellen von Staatsschutz und Verfassungsschutz) detects this properly.<sup>8</sup> The state of Berlin also registers crimes based on sexual orientation for several years, for example, having sexual orientation as a sub-topic, which complements the main theme of hate crime.<sup>9</sup> Anti-Muslim offences can be treated in the same manner, which were previously registered without specific police and criminological analysis, and therefore not disclosed in proper relation to their motivation. In order to allow this, the main theme of hate crimes must be supplemented with "Islamophobia", "anti-Muslim racism" and others, added on as additional sub-themes.

The federal government is, however, so far not interested in allowing security authorities to register, investigate and execute criminological exploration of Islamophobic attitudes and the resulting adult crimes. The very short answer given by the Federal Government to the question raised by the Left Party accounts for this suggestion.<sup>10</sup> In its reply to a written question raised by the Left Party on 3 June 2013, the Federal Government also indicates that appropriate changes / additions to the Criminal Investigation Registration Service of "politically motivated crimes" (KPM-D-PMK) can only be possible with the consent of all countries. Such an extension of the PMK catalogue of themes for a sub-theme on "Islamophobic" crimes under the generic term of "hate crimes", expected to be done by the competent bodies of the Conference of Interior Ministers, had been discussed in 2011, but ultimately not pursued by a mutual agreement. Recently the topic was discussed again on 10 April 2013, but with the same result.<sup>11</sup> The separate recording of anti-Muslim crimes appears as unnecessary to the Federal Government, because "the offences recorded as targeting the 'Religion facilities/Mosques' during the years 2001 to 2011 stands, annually, under a low double-digit range (moving within such interval areas), so that an adaptation of the system of definitions to current conditions cannot currently be expected to be done in the light of a statistically significant range of results".<sup>12</sup>

In the German states, the data situation is similar. The local state government of North Rhine-Westphalia stated similarly, in its response to an inquiry made by the Pirate political faction<sup>13</sup>, that: "The terms 'attacks', 'strokes', 'graffiti vandalism', 'assault' and 'incitement' (...) are not included as standards in the system of definitions within the PMK catalogue. The same applies to the terms "mosque" or "Muslim organisations". Furthermore, the KPM-D-PMK will not record the religious affiliation of victims."<sup>14</sup>

However, the local state parliament of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW) intends to change this and has adopted a common resolution of the political factions SPD, the Greens and the Pirates, submitted on 04/07/2014. In the submitted resolution, the state government is encouraged to support the revision and change of the detection system of "Politically Motivated Crimes" (PMK) used at the federal level. "Anti-Muslim" offences should be listed under the hate crimes theme as a separate offence. If a nationwide regulation is not possible, the local

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<sup>8</sup> Vgl. Wahl, Klaus, Introduction, in: Fremdenfeindlichkeit, Antisemitismus, Rechtsextremismus, Bundesministerium des Inneren (Xenophobia, anti-Semitism, Right-Wing, Federal Ministry of the Interior) (Ed.), 2001, P. 21, Berlin.

<sup>9</sup> Police President in Berlin, situation report on politically motivated crimes, 2010, 2011, P. 14.

<sup>10</sup> BT-Drs. 17/4335, 20/10/2010, P. 2.

<sup>11</sup> <http://dip21.bundestag.de/dip21/btd/17/136/1713686.pdf>, P. 6 (last visit: 26/09/2014).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid, P. 7.

<sup>13</sup> Small questions raised by the PIRATEN Party from 16/01/2014 (LT-Drs. 16/4804).

<sup>14</sup> Answer on behalf of the local state government, from 19/02/2014 (LT-Drs. 16/5100) to the small question raised by the PIRATEN Party from 16/01/2014 (LT-Drs. 16/4804).

state government was prompted to consider whether separate statistics for the NRW region is feasible.<sup>15</sup> The result of the initiative remains to be seen.

## **1.2 Police investigations**

Muslim representatives report that police recommend the person concerned, in the case of anti-Muslim crime, keep the case secret. Such was the case in Mölln, where a vandalism attack with faecal substances on a mosque was concealed, at first. The case was only opened to the public two weeks later. They wanted to prevent any replication of the crime. Similarly, in Oldenburg, where a mosque has become the victim of a Molotov attack, the police initially did not make the case open to the public. At the request of the online magazine IslamiQ, it was confirmed that they did not want to make the case public.<sup>16</sup>

Another point of criticism is the hurried exclusion of racist motives in anti-Muslim crimes by many law enforcement agencies. After the incendiary attack in Bielefeld on 11 August, the police began by finding that a burglar intended to cover their theft by setting a fire. Only after a second arson attack took place on a mosque did the police change their assessment. In both cases, the perpetrator or perpetrators had stacked together several copies of the Koran and used them to set the mosque on fire.<sup>17</sup> In the arson attack on 12 August at the Mevlana Mosque in Berlin-Kreuzberg, the authorities also initially excluded any racist motives. The police officials investigated a technical defect or the negligent handling of flammable liquids as possible causes of the fire. The police chief spoke of an "intentional act" only two weeks later, after the forensic investigative police department found traces of a flammable liquid in the fire residue.<sup>18</sup> In Garmisch-Partenkirchen, the police completely excluded the act of vandalism with swastika graffiti as being a politically-motivated act.<sup>19</sup>

Moreover, the lack of public sympathy after an arson attack unsettled many parishioners.

## **2. Chronological listing of mosque attacks**

### **2.1 February: Cologne, Hürth, Wesseling, Troisdorf**

#### **2.1.1 Cologne, Hürth, Wesseling: attempted arson and damage to property**

On the morning of 03/02/2014, a 31-year-old man who was apparently under the influence of drugs, according to media reports, set several objects on fire, including a school bag, before Ehrenfeld central mosque in Cologne, and hit the entrance door with a cutting disc. A short time later, the man was arrested.

According to a report by the Cologne city gazette, the 31-year-old is also responsible, to certain extent, for property damage done to mosques in Hürth and Wesseling. In Hürth during morning hours, he allegedly damaged several benches mounted at the mosque, with a car. The man should have been driving further from Hürth to Wesseling, where he is said to have

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<sup>15</sup> <http://www.landtag.nrw.de/portal/WWW/dokumentenarchiv/Dokument/MMD16-6122.pdf> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/09/04/anschlaege-auf-moscheen-polizei-raet-opfern-immer-wieder-zum-schweigen/> (last visit 26/09/2014).

<sup>17</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/08/28/bielefeld-polizei-scheint-brandstiftern-auf-der-spur-zu-sein/> (last visit: 26/09/2014).

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/08/27/mevlana-moschee-ein-brandanschlag-23-brandstifter/> (last visit: 26/09/2014).

<sup>19</sup> <http://www.merkur-online.de/lokales/garmisch-partenkirchen/garmisch-partenkirchen/vermummter-sprueht-hakenkreuze-moschee-3648626.html>

set a trash can on fire, on the mosque grounds. Then he apparently concluded his goal in Cologne-Ehrenfeld.<sup>20</sup>

"We investigate all directions", said a police spokesman to the Cologne city gazette. However, a political motivation was unlikely. The 31-year-old was a Turkish citizen.<sup>21</sup>

### **2.1.2 Troisdorf: swastika graffiti**

On 13/02/2014, Islamophobic graffiti was drawn near a mosque in Troisdorf. In a building of the German Railway (Deutsche Bahn), which is placed in the immediate vicinity of the mosque, one or more unknown perpetrators drew a large cross and wrote the lettering "Keine Mosches in BRD Kreuzritter" (No Mosq in BRD Crusader)<sup>22</sup>. The invective was not removed for weeks.<sup>23</sup>

It was the second time the mosque was a victim of an alleged anti-Islamic act. In 2012, there was an arson attack on the mosque. The perpetrator or perpetrators were not identified until today.<sup>24</sup>

### **2.2 May: Lülldorf: swastika graffiti**

On 09/05/2014, unknown persons vandalised the entry to the Lülldorf mosque with red swastika graffiti. Friday's visitors were horrified, declared the chairman of the Turkish-Islamic community of the Rhein-Sieg Rundschau.<sup>25</sup>

### **2.3 June: Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Würzburg, Hamburg**

#### **2.3.1 Garmisch-Partenkirchen: swastika graffiti**

On the night of 21 June 2014, a masked man sprayed swastika symbols on the wall next to the entrance and the door at the back entrance of the mosque in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The mosque had also been the object of an attack with eggs, according to the municipal executive board, about half a year ago.<sup>26</sup>

The police started the investigation with the supposition of a "stupid individual act". "There have been no other swastika vandalism acts in the last few months," said Thomas Holzer, Deputy Head of the Police Inspectorate Garmisch-Partenkirchen to the Mercury online gazette, by way of justification. "The developments have currently given us no grounds to assume this was a politically motivated act." The right-wing scene in Murnau is known, "but there's nothing like that here," said Holzer.<sup>27</sup>

#### **2.3.2 Würzburg: damage to property**

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<sup>20</sup> See <http://www.ksta.de/ehrenfeld/-brandanschlag-feuer-am-eingang-der-moschee,15187506,26073498.html>, 03/02/2014, (last visit: 10/09/2014); <http://www.presseportal.de/polizeipresse/pm/12415/2654814/pol-k-140203-2-k-brandstiftung-an-moschee> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> Original spelling. See also <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/02/13/kreuzritter-schriftzug-moscheenaehel> (last visit: 10/09/2014)

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> <http://www.rundschau-online.de/rhein-sieg/hakenkreuze-an-der-moschee,15185860,15938402.html> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>26</sup> <http://www.merkur-online.de/lokales/garmisch-partenkirchen/garmisch-partenkirchen/vermummter-sprueht-hakenkreuze-moschee-3648626.html> (last visit: 10/09/2014).

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

According to police information, a cutting disc was also used to hit the Bait-ul-Aleem Mosque in Würzburg, again perpetrated in an unknown manner, between 27/06 and 28/06/2014. The Würzburg police did determine the cause of the damage.<sup>28</sup>

### **2.3.3: Hamburg: arson and vandalism**

On 6 and 12 June 2014, unknown persons set fire to two prayer rugs used by Muslim students at the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. The first fire was extinguished in time, so no major damage was done. The second incident was not noticed, and the damage that occurred was significantly worse.<sup>29</sup>

The General Student Committee (student council AStA) suspects Islamophobic motives behind the arson attack, and sees a connection to "anti-Muslim racism" at HAW.<sup>30</sup> In a statement, the university condemned the attacks "in the strongest terms". But there is no clear evidence of a "xenophobic or anti-Islamic motive" behind the incident.<sup>31</sup>

## **2.4. August: Bielefeld - Berlin**

### **2.4.1 Bielefeld: arson and damage to property**

On Monday, 11/08/2014, a fire outbreak occurred at the mosque at Detmold Road, in Bielefeld. Unknown persons set fire to two editions of the Koran and other literature, according to media reports. The police spokeswoman Sonja Rehmert said that the flames spread to a carpet and wall covering, resulting in material damage.<sup>32</sup> It is unclear, however, how the fire occurred. The perpetrators, after the first investigation of the criminal police, broke into a donation account and stole a small amount of money. "*It is also possible that the burglar intended to distract the attention from the crime by setting a fire,*" the police spokeswoman initially said.<sup>33</sup>

On the morning of 19 August, a mosque in Bielefeld burned for the second time. In the early morning, an unknown person entered the "Yeni Cami" prayer room at Herford Street and set several Koran books and other literature on fire.<sup>34</sup> The Westfalen Blatt gazette notes that the video cameras outside of the building were maliciously damaged before the incident.<sup>35</sup> The Imam of the community confirmed this, on request. The offender can be seen on video footage entering from the back of the mosque on Tuesday, 19/08/2014, at around 4 clock in the morning, and cutting and manipulating the cable of the security camera. The perpetrators had apparently waited until the mosque was empty again, after the morning prayer. The Imam also noted that voluntary donations and other valuables that were in the prayer hall were not damaged or stolen.

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<sup>28</sup> <https://www.polizei.bayern.de/unterfranken/news/presse/aktuell/index.html/202791> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>29</sup> <http://www.mopo.de/polizei/st--georg-berliner-tor--zuendler-stecken-gebetsteppiche-an,7730198,27558844.html>, 21/06/2014, (last visit: 12/09/2014).

<sup>30</sup> <http://dtj-online.de/islam-in-deutschland-hambrug-gebetsteppiche-in-brand-gesteckt-30896>, 24/06/2014, (last visit: 12/09/2014).

<sup>31</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/06/22/gebetsteppiche-brand-gesetzt/> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>32</sup> See also [http://www.nw-news.de/owl/11211337\\_Brandstiftung\\_in\\_Moscheegebetsraum\\_in\\_Bielefeld.html](http://www.nw-news.de/owl/11211337_Brandstiftung_in_Moscheegebetsraum_in_Bielefeld.html) (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>33</sup> [http://www.nw-news.de/owl/11211337\\_Brandstiftung\\_in\\_Moscheegebetsraum\\_in\\_Bielefeld.html](http://www.nw-news.de/owl/11211337_Brandstiftung_in_Moscheegebetsraum_in_Bielefeld.html) (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>34</sup> [http://www.nw-news.de/owl/bielefeld/mitte/mitte/11218915\\_Zweiter\\_Brandanschlag\\_auf\\_tuerkische\\_Moscheen\\_in\\_Bielefeld.html](http://www.nw-news.de/owl/bielefeld/mitte/mitte/11218915_Zweiter_Brandanschlag_auf_tuerkische_Moscheen_in_Bielefeld.html) (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>35</sup> <http://www.westfalen-blatt.de/OWL/Lokales/Bielefeld/Bielefeld/1691691-Taeter-zuenden-Buecher-an-Zusammenhang-mit-Brand-vom-11.-August-wird-geprueft-Wieder-Brand-in-tuerkischem-Kulturzentrum,19/08/2014>, (last visit: 1/09/2014).

The police announced on 27/08/2014 that about 300 hours of video footage were being evaluated by the investigators looking for suspicious persons. The police spokeswoman Sonja Rehmert declared that a xenophobic motive could no longer be excluded.<sup>36</sup> After the first arson attack, a politically motivated act, as well as a xenophobic or racist motive was excluded.<sup>37</sup>

## 2.4.2 Berlin: arson and damage to property

In the Mevlana Mosque in Berlin-Kreuzberg a fire started at around 11pm on 11 August.<sup>38</sup> Six fire-fighting teams were needed to extinguish the fire. The construction will probably be partially or completely demolished. The damage amounts, according to the community, to more than € 1 million.<sup>39</sup>

Police spokesman Thomas Neuendorf first said that the officers could not detect any traces of an intrusion in the course of their investigation. Some evidence shows instead that the fire was caused by negligence or a technical defect.<sup>40</sup> The forensic investigative body of the police announced, however, a few days later, that traces of a flammable liquid were found.<sup>41</sup> The perpetrator or perpetrators presumably spilled incendiary accelerant in all three storeys.<sup>42</sup> According to the Mosque Management Board, the technical defects should not have been considered from the start because there were no electric lines installed in the construction that could count to a short circuit or something likely. The police chief Klaus Klandt finally declared, during a visit held on 26/08/2014 at the place of the fire, that "a technical failure will be ruled out" by the investigators. They will also exclude negligence. Investigators will start the investigation by considering it an "intentional act".<sup>43</sup> The mosque Board also criticised the fact that they initially had no access to the mosque after the fire, and have not been kept sufficiently informed.

On 30/08/2014, the Spiegel online gazette reported that the state prosecutor has launched an investigation against a suspect. The suspect originates from Jordan, and is held in custody for another offence.<sup>44</sup> The initial suspicion has not been confirmed, according to prosecutors. There is currently no evidence that the Jordanian suspect was the perpetrator of the arson attack on the Mevlana Mosque.<sup>45</sup>

## 2.5 September: Mölln - Oldenburg

### 2.5.1 Mölln: damage to property

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<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/08/28/bielefeld-polizei-scheint-brandstiftern-auf-der-spur-zu-sein/> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>38</sup> Behrendt, Michael/ Pletl, Steffen, Feuer in Moschee - Technischer Defekt könnte Ursache sein (Technical defect could be the cause), from: <http://www.morgenpost.de/berlin-aktuell/article131131300/Feuer-in-Moschee-Technischer-Defekt-koennt-Ursache-sein.html>, 12.08.2014, (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>39</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/08/30/mevlana-moschee-staatsanwaltschaft-ermittelt-gegen-tatverdaechtigen/> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> <http://www.tagesspiegel.de/berlin/polizei-justiz/mevlana-moschee-in-berlin-kreuzberg-polizei-findet-brandbeschleuniger-im-schutt/10338482.html> (last visit 24/09/2014).

<sup>42</sup> <http://www.berliner-zeitung.de/berlin/berlin-kreuzberg-jordanier-soll-moschee-angezuendet-haben,10809148,28275330.html>, 31.08.2014, (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>43</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/08/27/mevlana-moschee-ein-brandanschlag-23-brandstifter/> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>44</sup> <http://www.spiegel.de/panorama/justiz/brand-in-berliner-moschee-staatsanwaltschaft-leitet-ermittlungen-ein-a-988927.html> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>45</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/09/02/mevlana-moschee-suche-nach-brandstifter-geht-weiter/> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

In Mölln, the Fatih Sultan Mosque was the target of damage to property and profanation during the night of 16 August 2014. The offender, according to media reports, threw a "stink bomb", which was made of faeces, paint and leftover meat, against the door of the mosque. At the same time an art plate from the "Till the hatches was the Nasreddin project"<sup>46</sup> in front of the Möllner library was disfigured. The investigators suspect a connection between the two acts.<sup>47</sup>

Much to the irritation, however, was the fact that the offence was kept secret for two weeks.<sup>48</sup>

On the night of 30 August 2014, an unknown person left a dog to urinate in the entrance hall of the same mosque.<sup>49</sup> On 28 August, the city of Mölln subsequently adopted a resolution in which it condemned the incident and expressed "*their solidarity with Muslim citizens and the Möllner mosque association*".<sup>50</sup> The city of Mölln also held a solidarity meeting on 6 September in consultation with the mosque association, which was attended by about 300 people.<sup>51</sup>

### **2.5.2 Oldenburg: attempted arson and damage to property**

On 30/08/2014 two Molotov cocktails were thrown against the "Haci Bayram Mosque" by an unknown person. A security camera at the mosque filmed the perpetrators at around 5 o'clock at night, as they threw bottles with flammable liquid. The fire eventually extinguished itself, according to information provided by the North-West newspaper. Parishioners later discovered traces of soot.<sup>52</sup>

The police claim to have no clues about the identity of the unknown perpetrators. The video is of poor quality and therefore delivers only limited information, the police spokesman said.<sup>53</sup> The police did not rule out a xenophobic attack and investigated "in all directions".<sup>54</sup> However, extreme right motives were unlikely.<sup>55</sup>

### **2.6 Rheinfelden: process ends with acquittal**

In 2010, unknown perpetrators carried out a total of three attacks on the Alperenler Mosque in Rheinfelden. On 02/05/2010 (between midnight and 4am) the perpetrator threw three cutting discs at the mosque, and vandalised it with swastika graffiti. One of the suspects, a twenty-year-old neo-Nazi, was arrested on 30 March 2011.<sup>56</sup> On the night of 21 May 2010, four discs were again thrown at the windows and doors of the mosque.<sup>57</sup> On 4 November 2010, the mosque was finally attacked for the third time, with a stone. A 20-year-old appren-

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<sup>46</sup> <http://www.verein-miteinander-leben.de/till/projekte.html> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>47</sup> <http://www.islamiq.de/2014/08/30/moelln-anschlag-auf-moschee-wurde-verheimlicht/>, 30/08/2014, (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> <http://ditib-nord.de/content/serie-von-moschee%C3%BCbergriffen-m%C3%B6lln-geben-anlass-zur-sorge>, (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>50</sup> Press release from the city Mölln from 29/08/2014, reachable at:

[http://www.moelln.de/files/aktuelles/PM\\_Solidaritaetsveranstaltung.pdf](http://www.moelln.de/files/aktuelles/PM_Solidaritaetsveranstaltung.pdf), (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>51</sup> Press release from the city Mölln from 03/09/2014, reachable at:

[http://www.moelln.de/files/aktuelles/PM\\_Solidaritaetsveranstaltung.pdf](http://www.moelln.de/files/aktuelles/PM_Solidaritaetsveranstaltung.pdf), (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>52</sup> [www.noz.de/deutschland-welt/niedersachsen/artikel/503284/brandanschlag-auf-moschee-in-oldenburg](http://www.noz.de/deutschland-welt/niedersachsen/artikel/503284/brandanschlag-auf-moschee-in-oldenburg), 03/09/2014, (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> <http://www.deutsch-tuerkische-nachrichten.de/2014/09/504367/anschlaege-auf-moscheen-gehen-weiter/>, 05/09/2014, (last visit: 11/09/2014).

<sup>56</sup> <http://www.heise.de/tp/artikel/35/35449/2.html> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>57</sup> <http://www.badische-zeitung.de/rheinfelden/neuer-anschlag-oder-chaoten--31369010.html> (last visit: 24/09/2014)

tice was arrested on 15 March 2011, as the alleged perpetrator.<sup>58</sup> The accused, who belongs to the political right-wing scene, was acquitted on 22/05/2014.

An anonymous spokesperson and a witness had reported to the police that the man, now 23, had been involved. In addition, the tyre tracks found locally were attributable to a red BMW with an English car number, in which the defendant allegedly drove away. As a further indication, the 23-year-old was nominated by the prosecutor for a second attack on the mosque. After that, the DNA evidence of the accused was seized.<sup>59</sup>

Overall, the findings of the youth jury court were not conclusive enough to lead to a conviction. "*There are some people in Rheinfeldern that have something against the mosque,*" said the judge.<sup>60</sup>

Our Recommendations are:

1. Governments are expected to register Islamophobic attitudes and the resulting adult crime separately, safety authorities are expected to investigate and to let explore this phenomena criminologically.
2. After the arson attacks on mosques, churches and synagogues in Germany and other European countries, governments are asked to increase the protection of religious centers. When creating a risk assessment religious communities must be involved in this process.
3. The fact that investigating authorities often exclude a political motivation right at the beginning of the investigating process, creates the impression that the determination result was anticipated in most cases. This assumption needs to be reviewed with the help of studies and analyzes. For this insight is required into various investigation files. Moreover, in this context, we call for the implementation of the recommendations of the NSU-committees of inquiry with the assistance of science and civil society.
4. Training of police and judicial awareness with respect to the subject area of anti-Muslim crimes and training to strengthen intercultural competence.

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<sup>58</sup> <http://www.heise.de/tp/artikel/35/35449/2.html> (last visit: 24/09/2014).

<sup>59</sup> <http://www.badische-zeitung.de/rheinfeldern/steinwuerfe-auf-moschee-gericht-spricht-rechtsextremen-frei--85233397.html> (last visit: 10/09/2014).

<sup>60</sup> Ibid.